

unions who support the agreement are those whose workers will be affected. Let me repeat that: The unions in Colombia that will be affected by this trade agreement support it.

I also met with President Uribe, the Attorney General, and disarmed paramilitary combatants. I saw the broad support from the Colombian people for this agreement and the progress the country has made to protect and promote human rights. I returned even more convinced that we must pass this agreement to grow our economy, create jobs, and support a strategic ally.

The Colombia FTA would grow our economy by opening new markets for American businesses and farmers while bringing fairness to our existing trade relationship. Virtually all of Colombian goods enter America duty-free, while American goods face tariffs. With so many jobs tied to trade in Washington, common sense says we must level the playing field.

The FTA will also support democracy in an unstable region. It's imperative for Americans to view free trade agreements not just as a mutual economic benefit, but also as a core component of our country's diplomacy and security. Colombia stands tall as a beacon of democracy in the face of Hugo Chavez's anti-American policies. And Colombia remains a key ally in efforts to combat the illegal drug trade. What message does it send to our allies around the world if we ask so much of them, then turn our backs on them at a crucial moment? Why do so many Members come down here to talk about working together with other countries in foreign policy, but do not want to do so in trade? Trade is foreign policy.

Delaying the Colombia FTA signals to our allies that America is closed for trade, and encourages our rivals to exploit new markets. It also derails the consideration of other pending trade agreements like one with Korea, Washington State's fourth largest trading partner. This is absolutely the wrong message to send in this time of economic uncertainty.

Regardless of your views of the FTA, the House deserves to debate it under the rules of consideration this chamber agreed to when it approved trade promotion authority. Let's stop playing political games that cater to special interests, and let's start working together, as Democrats and Republicans, to pass the trade measures that are important to our economy and our workers.

XIA LANIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Xia Laniel who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Xia Laniel is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Xia Laniel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Xia Laniel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

CHARLES HITCHBORN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Chuck Hitchborn on the occasion of his retirement as Mayor of the City of Smithville, Missouri.

Chuck served four years as Mayor of Smithville. Before that, he served six years on the Smithville Board of Aldermen. In addition to his service in Smithville, Chuck also served eight years as a city council member in Arrowhead, Colorado. Chuck has been married to his wife, Joan, for 57 years. Together they have two children, five grandchildren, and ten grandchildren with two more on the way. In his spare time, he is an avid quilter and enjoys gardening. He gets his greatest enjoyment from working with kids and supporting Smithville's local student organizations and athletes.

Chuck has served the Smithville community in many other ways as well. He has been a member and past President of the Rotary Club and is also a current member of the Smithville R-II School District Foundation. Some of Chuck's accomplishments include the downtown sewer replacement project, the approval of Smithville Commons and the addition of the veterans memorial in downtown Smithville.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Chuck Hitchborn for his dedicated service to the people of Smithville, Missouri. I know Chuck's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
JENNY HOSTETLER FOR WIN-
NING THE OHIO DIVISION IV
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPION-
SHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jenny Hostetler showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jenny Hostetler was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Jenny Hostetler always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jenny Hostetler on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous

hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD M.
CALABRESE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Leonard M. Calabrese, who through his service to the Catholic Church of Cleveland has dedicated his life to serving as a community organizer on behalf of the poor, the vulnerable and the voiceless.

For over 20 years, Mr. Calabrese has served as executive director of the Commission on Catholic Community Action (CCCCA), the Social Action Office for Catholic Charities Services, for the Diocese of Cleveland. Prior to his appointment as executive director, Len served as a volunteer board member for nine years. Founded in 1969, the CCCC works to protect and promote human dignity through empowering the poor and the often voiceless minority groups by promoting and ensuring their full participation in society. Through his leadership at the Commission, he is able to work with many other local organizations to educate, mobilize and raise the consciousness of the community, especially among Catholics.

Len Calabrese has a multifaceted background and a very impressive record in serving our community. He was an associate professor for several higher learning institutions such as John Carroll University, University of Akron, Northwestern University and St. Mary Seminary. He was also a consultant for several mayors and the Ohio Senate, and board member for several institutions such as Cuyahoga County Public Library, Immigrant Minority Business Alliance, The City Club of Cleveland and the greater Cleveland Round Table of Civic Leaders, Greater Cleveland Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America just to name a few.

I have had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Len Calabrese in a number of capacities. In the aftermath of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Len worked with the community at large to allay fears expressed against immigrants. He has helped many newcomers from abroad with his welcoming touch and his help with the necessary networking to succeed in business. He represented the CCCC in the Sustainable Communities Symposium and other collaborations with the inner city and suburbs of Cleveland.

Len's talent to mobilize the community and to advocate for the social welfare of others is manifested through his new position as president of Caritas Connection, a nonprofit organization that works to connect Catholic charities, health care, nursing homes and colleges. He will also serve as director of Ministering Together, a national umbrella of Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Health Care, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, National Catholic Education Association and various organizations of the laity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Leonard M. Calabrese, who has dedicated his life to serving his church and the greater Cleveland community.